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SIRHAN 8/16/71

2ND LD 163

BY YVONNE PATTEN

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--A COUNTY GRAND JURY INQUIRY THUS FAR HAS PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE THAT THE EXHIBITS IN THE SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN CASE HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH, A PROSECUTOR SAID TODAY.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD HECHT MADE THE COMMENT TO NEWSMEN AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

THE JURY SESSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS.

"THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH," HECHT SAID.

HE SAID THE JURY'S INVESTIGATION IS "PRIMARILY AN INQUIRY INTO THE ACTIVITY OF THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE IN DISCHARGING ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH COURT ORDERS ISSUED."

HECHT REFERRED TO RULINGS BY TWO SEPARATE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES IN THE SIRHAN CASE ORDERING THE COUNTY CLERK NOT TO MAKE EXHIBITS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE COURT.

HECHT SAID THAT HIS COMMENT ABOUT TAMPERING WAS MADE ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRAND JURY PROBE.

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